



THE DERBY DISPATCH

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ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY TRIPLE HEADER ON TAP SATURDAY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, March 5, 2020) – Action on the Road to the Kentucky Derby will heat up Saturday with a trio of Championship Series races on tap. All three races will award the Top 4 finishers points on a 50-20-10-5 scale.

The three races are scheduled to run within a half hour of one another between 5:30-6 p.m. (all times Eastern) and will kick off with the \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GII) for the highly-anticipated rematch of \$100,000 Mucho Macho Man Stakes winner **Chance It** and \$250,000 Sam F. Davis (GIII) hero **Sole Volante**. A full field of 12 horses are signed on to compete in the Tampa Bay Derby, which also includes a trio of runners from five-time Tampa Bay Derby winning-conditioner **Todd Pletcher**.

Ten minutes later, the \$300,000 Gotham (GIII) at Aqueduct is slated to go to the post featuring 3-1 morning line favorite **Mischievous Alex**. Trained by 2004 Kentucky Derby-winning conditioner **John Servis**, Mischevious Alex has dominated at distances around one turn and will once again get to strut his stuff for the one-turn mile event.

Saturday's action will conclude with a potential stellar matchup at Santa Anita in the \$400,000 San Felipe (GII) that features undefeated stablemates **Authentic** and **Thousand Words**. Both trained by five-time Kentucky Derby-winner **Bob Baffert**, the duo is joined in the gate by stout maiden winner **Honor A. P.** and Eclipse Award-winner **Storm the Court**.

Also featured this weekend is Pool 3 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager. The field of 23 individual betting interests along with "All Other 3-Year-Olds" is available at www.kentuckyderby.com/futurewager. The pool opens Friday at noon and closes Sunday at 6 p.m. The pool, which features Win and Exacta wagering, will run concurrently with the lone Kentucky Oaks Future Wager. The betting menu also will include an Oaks/Derby Double. The Oaks Future Wager will close Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

SAN FELIPE FEATURES BAFFERT DUO AUTHENTIC, THOUSAND WORDS – **Authentic** and **Thousand Words** will put their unbeaten records on line when they square off in Saturday's \$400,000 San Felipe (GII) at Santa Anita. The **Bob Baffert**-trained duo highlights a field of seven in the Road to the Kentucky Derby series qualifier.

Contested over 1 1/16 miles, the San Felipe awards points on a 50-20-10-5 scale toward a berth in the 146th Kentucky Derby on May 2. **Authentic** and **Thousand Words** have both earned points winning Kentucky Derby qualifiers this season, but did so in vastly different fashion.

A convincing debut maiden winner at Del Mar in mid-November, **Authentic** romped wire-to-wire by 7 3/4 lengths when stepping up in the Jan. 4 Sham (GIII) for his five-time

Kentucky Derby-winning trainer. The \$350,000 son of Into Mischief looms as a serious front-running threat Saturday with regular rider **Drayden Van Dyke**.

Thousand Words has grinded out narrow wins in all three starts, getting up late to prevail by three-quarters of a length when opening 2020 in the Feb. 1 Robert B. Lewis (GIII), and the two-time stakes winner has been able to race up close in every race. A \$1 million son of Pioneerof the Nile, sire of 2015 American Triple Crown winner **American Pharoah**, **Thousand Words** may race farther back given the presence of his stablemate and wire-to-wire Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) winner **Storm the Court**, and look to finish strongly beneath **Flavien Prat**.

Storm the Court used the seven-furlong San Vicente (GII) as a tune-up, finishing 2 1/4 lengths back of well-regarded **Nadal** in fourth, and the Juvenile upsetter is eligible to improve off the tightener while stretching back to two turns for **Peter Eurton**. **Joel Rosario** picks up the mount on the Kentucky-bred son of Court Vision.

Honor A. P., a sharp 5 1/4-length maiden victor at Santa Anita when last seen in mid-October, will make his anticipated stakes debut for **John Shirreffs**, trainer of 2005 Kentucky Derby winner **Giacomo**. **Mike Smith** will be back up on the son of Honor Code.

Rounding out the field are Breeders' Cup Juvenile third-placer **Wrecking Crew**, who will need to rebound after giving way badly in his most recent outing; Turf Paradise Derby winner **Swagsational**; and Gulfstream Park West maiden winner **Fort McHenry**, who has been transferred to two-time Kentucky Derby-winning conditioner **Doug O'Neill**. – *James Scully/TwinSpires.com*

CHANCE IT, SOLE VOLANTE MEET AGAIN IN TAMPA BAY DERBY – Saturday's \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GII) was always the target for **Sole Volante** following his local victory in the Feb. 8 Sam F. Davis (GIII). **Chance It** was rerouted after being withdrawn from last Saturday's Fountain of Youth (GII) at Gulfstream Park due to a wide draw.

They highlight a 12-horse field in the Road to the Kentucky Derby series qualifier at Tampa Bay Downs.

A total of 85 points (50-20-10-5 scale) will be up for grabs toward a Kentucky Derby berth, and the top draws will meet again after squaring off in the Jan. 4 Mucho Macho Man at Gulfstream Park. **Chance It** got the better of his rival that afternoon, posting a head victory with **Sole Volante** 2 1/4 lengths back in third, and the Florida-bred son of Currency Swap will look to carry his momentum forward Saturday.

Trained by **Saffie Joseph Jr.**, **Chance It** reeled off a 7 1/4-length victory over state-bred rivals when annexing the In Reality division of the Florida Stallion Series two starts back at Saturday's 1 1/16-mile distance. He cut back to a one-turn mile in the Mucho Macho Man, rallying from just off the pace up the inside to gamely defeat subsequent Fountain of Youth

third-placer **As Seen On Tv**, and Chance It will add **Paco Lopez** and break from post 4 Saturday.

Sole Volante was making his first dirt start in the Mucho Macho Man after capturing a pair of turf starts for **Patrick Biancone**. The late-running gelding moved forward while stretching out to two turns in the Sam F. Davis, rallying boldly past odds-on favorite **Independence Hall** to win a widening 2 ½-length margin, and the son of Karakontie registered a commendable 102 Brisnet Speed rating. **Florent Geroux** will replace an injured **Luca Panici** in the saddle.

Sole Volante has been established as the 2-1 morning line favorite, with Chance It the 5-2 second choice.

Market Analysis, who at 8-1 is the only other runner listed at single digit odds on the morning line, will make his stakes debut for two-time Kentucky Derby winner **Todd Pletcher**. A \$250,000 son of Honor Code, the gray colt was prominent from the start winning his first outing at Gulfstream on Jan. 25, scoring by nearly a length. He was flattered when runner-up **Attachment Rate**, who will run in Saturday's Gotham (GIII) at Aqueduct, came back to graduate by open lengths the next time out, and **John Velazquez** will be in to guide the promising Market Analysis.

Spa City jumps to stakes competition for **Kiaran McLaughlin** after posting a fast maiden win at Gulfstream. Stretching out to two turns last time, the **Godolphin** homebred son of 2007 Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense earned a 103 Brisnet Speed rating for his front-running tally. **Daniel Centeno** takes over the reins from an injured **Jose Ortiz**. **Unrighteous**, who finished three-quarters of a length behind Spa City in second last time, will also make his initial stakes attempt Saturday. Pletcher trains the dark bay son of Violence, and Unrighteous adds blinkers and shows a five-furlong bullet work at Palm Beach Downs in preparation. **Joe Bravo** rides the maiden.

Pletcher has also entered **Texas Swing**, a last-out maiden winner at Tampa. **King Guillermo**, third as the favorite to Sole Volante in the grassy Pulpit S. when last seen in late November, will go turf to dirt for **Juan Avila** in his 3-year-old opener. **Samy Camacho** will be up on the Uncle Mo colt. Other runners include Holy Bull (GIII) fourth-placer **Relentless Dancer**; last-out maiden victor **Mo Mosa**; and **Bye Bye Melvin**, who will switch surfaces after winning two straight on the Tampa turf for **Graham Motion**. — **James Scully/TwinSpires.com**

MISCHEVIOUS ALEX LOOKS TO KEEP ROLLING IN GOTHAM — Whether he can get the Kentucky Derby (GI) distance of 1 ¼ miles remains to be seen, but for the purposes of Saturday's \$300,000 Gotham (GIII) at Aqueduct, **Mischevious Alex** just needs to keep doing what he's been doing lately.

Winner of his last two starts over seven furlongs by a combined margin of 16 ¾ lengths, Mischevious Alex will step up an additional furlong in trip for the Gotham, a Road to the Kentucky Derby prep that will award qualifying points of 50-20-10-5 to the top four finishers.

Trainer **John Servis**, who trained Smarty Jones to Derby glory in 2004, has in Mischevious Alex one of the best 3-year-old sprinters of this young season following a seven-length romp in the Swale (GIII) last month.

"If he runs good in the Gotham, we'll have to try him two turns again to see how he handles it," Servis said. "I think the

Wood (Memorial) would be the most logical spot, but nothing is etched in stone. We have to get by Saturday first."

There will be 10 rivals for Mischevious Alex to get by, a number of whom were impressive last-out maiden winners. Among them are **Attachmate Rate**, who won by more than six lengths going a mile at Gulfstream for **Dale Romans**; **War Stomper**, a track-and-distance graduate by four lengths for **Rudy Rodriguez**; and **Sixto**, who won on debut going six furlongs and is sure to improve being by Curlin.

"He's really a push-button horse," trainer **Eric Guillot** said of Sixto. "He's a late foal and I think once he develops more, he'll be a nice two-turn horse but for now, the one-turn mile should suit him fine."

A duo of Swale also-rans have also shown up in the Gotham. **Untitled** was fourth as the beaten favorite after a rough start, but returned two weeks later to finish second to **Gouverneur Morris** in a Tampa Bay Downs allowance. **Necker Island** was fifth in the Swale after a wide trip in what was his first outing since a Nov. 30 allowance score at Churchill Downs in which he nosed out **Silver State**.

Montauk Traffic, who's won two in a row including the Jimmy Winkfield S., should find the step up to a mile, and the possibility of a strong pace, agreeable, while **Flap Jack** was last seen in early September taking the Arlington-Washington Futurity by four lengths over Polytrack. — **Vance Hanson/Brisnet.com**

UPCOMING ROAD TO THE DERBY RACES

Date	Race	Track	Top 4 Points
March 7	Gotham	Aqu	50-20-10-5
March 7	San Felipe	SA	50-20-10-5
March 7	Tampa Bay Derby	Tam	50-20-10-5
March 14	Jeff Ruby Steaks	TP	20-8-4-2
March 14	Rebel	OP	50-20-10-5
March 21	Louisiana Derby	FG	100-40-20-10
March 22	Sunland Derby	Sun	50-20-10-5
March 28	UAE Derby	Meydan	100-40-20-10
March 28	Florida Derby	GP	100-40-20-10
March 28	Fukuryu#	Nakayama	40-16-8-4
April 2	Cardinal Condition*	Chelmsford	30-12-6-3
April 4	Wood Memorial	Aqu	100-40-20-10
April 4	Blue Grass	Kee	100-40-20-10
April 4	Santa Anita Derby	SA	100-40-20-10
April 11	Arkansas Derby	OP	100-40-20-10
April 11	Lexington	Kee	20-8-4-2

Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby

* European Road to the Kentucky Derby

QUOTABLE

Notable quotes provided by owners, trainers and jockeys to track officials:

Gotham:

#6 Mischevious Alex: "If you look at his (Sept. 1) Sapling, he looks like a horse that maybe doesn't want to go that far but (jockey) Trevor McCarthy was adamant after the race that he should have won but the horse got to the front and started waiting on horses. I think blinkers have solved that. ... If he runs good in the Gotham we'll have to try him at two turns again to see how he handles it. I think the (April 4) Wood Memorial would be the most logical spot but nothing is etched in stone. We have to get by Saturday first." — trainer **John Servis**

#7 **Sixto**: “His last time to the track we just gave him an easy work from the gate. It was a deep track and he finished up strong. Stepping up into the Gotham against better horses we knew he had to be sharper so we just gave him that reminder to focus on breaking good and it worked out.” – trainer **Eric Guillot**

#8 **Montauk Traffic**: “We like to think the added distance will only help him. I was a little concerned around the turn (in the seven-furlong Jimmy Winkfield). Jose (Lezcano) opted to quit chasing faster fractions and just let the horse settle. Around the turn it looked like he was getting some kickback and trying to work his way through that as well. He made a nice move at the end of it and we believe that the further the better for him” – trainer **Linda Rice**

#11 **Untitled**: “He’s a beautiful horse. He’s a big, long, good-moving horse. The problem he has sometimes is he breaks a bit slow. After we bought him we breezed him from the gate trying to get him to be a little quicker from there. I always wanted to run him long and I figure the longer I run him the less important the start is.” – trainer **Mark Casse**

Tampa Bay Derby

#4 **Chance It**: “We just weren’t comfortable running him (in the Holy Bull) with that outside post. I know horses have overcome that post in the past but it is very difficult to do at Gulfstream. ... He’s so good that I never want to get him beat. If he gets beat, it’s our fault. That’s why I wanted to make sure he was fit enough (for the Jan. 4 Mucho Macho Man) that if he had to belly down he could, and he did. I have a ton of respect for him. He’s a really good horse.” – trainer **Saffie Joseph Jr.**

#7 **Sole Volante**: “It’s a shame what happened to Luca (Panic) breaking his collar bone and not being able to ride. I was able to get on him last week for Patrick (Biancone) and he seems like a very nice horse.” – jockey **Florent Geroux**

#8 **Letmeno**: “He ran well in his last race off of that layoff. I think he’d only improve off of that race.” – jockey **Chris Landeros**

San Felipe

#4 **Authentic**: “I think the noise from the crowd made him react the way he did in the stretch (in the Jan. 4 Sham Stakes). ... I told Bob (Baffert) when he broke his maiden he was my favorite 2-year-old.” – jockey **Drayden Van Dyke**

#4 **Authentic**: “Authentic has been working unbelievably. The horse has already shown he can get two turns and he might be talented enough to get a mile and a quarter.” – private clocker and bloodstock agent **Gary Young**

#5 **Thousand Words**: “Thousand Words is a tough read because he won the Robert B. Lewis off very ordinary works. Baffert said you can’t pay too much attention to them because he trains like Silver Charm.” – private clocker and bloodstock agent **Gary Young**

#5 **Thousand Words**: “He’s been a really exciting Derby prospect for us since he was at the farm with Dennis’ Moment. We just need to hold our breath and hope to get him to the first Saturday in May.” – Albaugh Family Stables’ racing manager **Jason Loutch**

PAST PERFORMANCES & HISTORY

Brinset.com Kentucky Derby Contenders Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/2Izlep>

Gotham Past Performances*
<https://bit.ly/2TEu1HC>

Tampa Bay Derby Past Performances*
<https://bit.ly/32QeTeb>

San Felipe Past Performances*
<https://bit.ly/3apCght>

Gotham Stakes History
<https://bit.ly/2wvjuGy>

Tampa Bay Derby Stakes History
<https://bit.ly/2IldK56>

San Felipe Stakes History
<https://bit.ly/38r75km>

Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 3 Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/2ToE84i>

Kentucky Oaks Future Wager Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/3cy8jO8>

*Past Performance links will be updated once final PPs are released

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY TOP 25

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	Ete Indien	Patrick Biancone	54
2.	Modernist	Bill Mott	50
3.	Enforceable	Mark Casse	33
4.	Storm the Court	Peter Miller	22
5.	Tiz the Law	Barclay Tagg	22
6.	Silver Prospector	Steve Asmussen	21
7.	Thousand Words	Bob Baffert	20
8.	Major Fed	Greg Foley	20
9.	Candy Tycoon	Todd Pletcher	20
10.	Shotski	Jeremiah O'Dwyer	19
11.	Independence Hall	Mike Trombetta	14
12.	Silver State	Steve Asmussen	14
13.	Azul Coast	Bob Baffert	14
14.	Shoplifted	Steve Asmussen	13
15.	Anneau d'Or	Blaine Wright	12
16.	Maxfield	Brendan Walsh	10
17.	Eight Rings	Bob Baffert	10
18.	Sole Volante	Patrick Biancone	10
19.	Dennis' Moment	Dale Romans	10
20.	Gold Street	Steve Asmussen	10
21.	Dennis' Moment	Dale Romans	10
22.	Max Player	Linda Rice	10
23.	Authentic	Bob Baffert	10
24.	Ny Traffic	Saffie Joseph Jr.	10
25.	Ajaweed	Kiaran McLaughlin	7

DERBY DETAIL

TAMPA DERBY RUNS HISTORICALLY THROUGH PLETCHER – **Todd Pletcher** has dominated the Tampa Bay Derby (GII) over the last decade with five victories in the 1 1/16-mile race, including victories in three of the last five runnings.

Pletcher has three horses entered in Saturday's 40th renewal of the race including recently touted maiden winner **Market Analysis**. The 52-year-old conditioner has gone winless in the last two editions of the Tampa Bay Derby following three-straight victories in the race with **Tapwrit**, **Destin** and **Carpe Diem**.

Pletcher's other Tampa Bay Derby victories occurred in 2013 with **Verrazano** and 2004 with **Limehouse**.

GEROUX NABS ANOTHER ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY VICTORY – **Florent Geroux** and his agent **Doug Bredar** have been hard at work since the Fall to secure a mount for this year's Kentucky Derby.

With 14 races remaining on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, Geroux has ridden five contenders on the Leaderboard including last week's winner of the \$400,000 Fountain of Youth (GII) **Ete Indien**.

Geroux, who was the regular rider for **Mr. Monomoy** who was removed from Triple Crown consideration due to a minor ankle injury, is slated to ride **Sole Volante** in this weekend's \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GII) and has the call on Southwest Stakes (GIII) runner-up **Wells Bayou** in next Saturday's Rebel (GII).

SPRING STALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, – Churchill Downs Spring Meet stall applications are due Friday.

For more information and to download a stall application, visit: <https://bit.ly/2viIT6h>

ADDITIONAL TRIPLE CROWN NEWS AND NOTES – Risen Star Stakes (GII) winner **Mr. Monomoy** was removed from consideration for this year's Triple Crown due to a minor ankle injury, according to trainer **Brad Cox**. ... Trainer **Mark Casse**'s assistant **David Carroll** reported that Risen Star runner-up **Enforceable** is due to work Saturday and still remains on target for the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII) on March 21. ... Trainer **Mike Trombetta** reported Sam F. Davis (GIII) runner-up **Independence Hall** is targeting the \$1 million Florida Derby on March 28. The colt has been stabled at Tampa Bay Downs. ... The backside at Churchill Downs is scheduled to open on Tuesday, March 17 with the first day of training tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 20.

THE RUNDOWN

TAMPA BAY DERBY (GII)

Saturday, March 7, \$400,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Tampa Bay Downs (R11), Oldsmar, Fla., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. Post time: 5:32 p.m. EST. TV: TVG, Fox Sports 2

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Texas Swing*	Javier Castellano	Todd Pletcher	12-1
2.	Spa City	Daniel Centeno	Kiaran McLaughlin	10-1
3.	Relentless Dancer	Antonio Gallardo	Mike Maker	12-1
4.	Chance It	Paco Lopez	Saffie Joseph Jr.	5-2
5.	Market Analysis	John Velazquez	Todd Pletcher	8-1
6.	Mo Mosa	Pablo Morales	Mike Maker	30-1
7.	Sole Volante	Florent Geroux	Patrick Biancone	2-1
8.	Letmeno	Chris Landeros	Ian Wilkes	12-1
9.	Unrighteous	Joe Bravo	Todd Pletcher	20-1
10.	Bye Bye Melvin	Julien Leparoux	Graham Motion	20-1
11.	King Guillermo*	Samy Camacho	Juan Avila	15-1
12.	Tons of Gold	Angel Suarez	Alexis Delgado	30-1

GOTHAM (GIII)

Saturday, March 7, \$300,000, 3yo, 1 M, Aqueduct (R10), Ozone, N.Y., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. Post time: 5:42 p.m. EST. TV: TVG, Fox Sports 2

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Celtic Striker*	Rajiv Maragh	Ray Handal	30-1
2.	Informative	John Bisono	Uriah St. Lewis	15-1
3.	War Stopper	Jorge Vargas	Rudy Rodriguez	5-1
4.	Attachment Rate	Luis Saez	Dale Romans	9-2
5.	Necker Island	Manny Franco	Stan Hough	12-1
6.	Mischievous Alex	Kendrick Carmouche	John Servis	3-1
7.	Sixto*	Eric Cancel	Eric Guillot	8-1
8.	Montauk Traffic	Jose Lezcano	Linda Rice	6-1
9.	Flap Jack*	Declan Carroll	Jack Sistonson	30-1
10.	Untitled	Junior Alvarado	Mark Casse	4-1
11.	First Deputy*	Dylan Davis	Linda Rice	30-1

SAN FELIPE (GII)

Saturday, March 7, \$400,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Santa Anita (R8), Arcadia, Calif., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. Post time: 6 p.m. EST. TV: TVG

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer
1.	Fort McHenry*	Abel Cedillo	Doug O'Neill
2.	Honor A.P.	Mike Smith	John Sherreffs
3.	Wrecking Crew	Tyler Gaffalione	Peter Miller
4.	Authentic	Drayden Van Dyke	Bob Baffert
5.	Thousand Words	Flavien Prat	Bob Baffert
6.	Storm the Court	Joel Rosario	Peter Eurton
7.	Swagsational*	Kassie Guglielmino	Heath Lawrence

BUSHER INVITATIONAL

Saturday, March 7, \$250,000, 3yo Fillies, 1 M Aqueduct (R9), Ozone, N.Y., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. Post time: 5:14 p.m. EST. TV: TVG, Fox Sports 2

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Mo City	Manny Franco	Mike Stidham	6-1
2.	Kansas Kis**	Eric Cancel	Ray Handal	15-1
3.	Panthera Onca**	Jose Lezcano	Brad Cox	15-1
4.	Maedean	Luis Saez	Mark Hennig	5-2
5.	Lake Avenue	Junior Alvarado	Bill Mott	1-1
6.	Water White	Jorge Vargas	Rudy Rodriguez	8-1
7.	Persisto**	Dylan Davis	Kelly Breen	12-1
8.	Invertate**	Kendrick Carmouche	Dermot Magner	20-1

HONEYBEE (GIII)

Saturday, March 7, \$300,000, 3yo Fillies, 1 1/16 M, Oaklawn Park (R9), Hot Springs, Ark., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. Post time: 6:09 p.m. EST. TV: TVG

# Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1. Motu	Brian Hernandez Jr.	Kenny McPeck	3-1
2. Shedaresthedevil	Joe Talamo	Brad Cox	6-1
3. Turtle Trax	Joe Rocco Jr.	Ian Wilkes	4-1
4. Ring leader	David Cohen	Maclean Robertson	7-2
5. Alta's Award	Ricardo Santana Jr.	Steve Asmussen	9-2
6. Back In Charge	Ramon Vazquez	Kenny McPeck	12-1
7. Fiftyshays Ofgreen	Martin Garcia	John Servis	8-1
8. Raggedy Annie**	Orlando Mojica	D. Wayne Lukas	10-1
9. Queen Bridget**	Channing Hill	John Ortiz	30-1

* Not Triple Crown nominated

** Not Kentucky Oaks nominated

SCULLY'S DERBY REPORT

Ete Indien put on a show in the Feb. 29 Fountain of Youth (GII) at Gulfstream Park, drawing off decisively to win by 8 1/2 lengths. He has made tremendous strides since switching from turf to dirt three starts ago, and the front-runner looks poised to play catch-me-if-you-can in the Kentucky Derby.

Florent Geroux picked up the mount from an injured **Luca Panici** and hustled Ete Indien straight to the lead from post 10, with the dark bay sophomore crossing in front of the field before the first turn. The **Patrick Biancone**-trained colt just cruised the rest of the way, widening the advantage dramatically nearing the conclusion of the far turn, and Ete Indien appeared to lose focus while drifting out under the finish line unopposed.

It was a big-time performance. Considering he dictated terms at 1 1/16 miles, Ete Indien must still prove himself over longer distances, but he now has a star quality to him. A Kentucky-bred son of Summer Front, Ete Indien earned 50 points winning the Road to the Kentucky Derby series qualifier, increasing his total to 54, and virtually guaranteed himself a spot in the projected 20-horse field on May 2.

Overlooked at 14-1 when switching to dirt in an entry-level allowance in mid-December, Ete Indien toyed with rivals recording a 2 1/2-length decision. The Feb. 1 Holy Bull (GIII) represented a serious class check, and Ete Indien held nicely for second, 11 1/2 lengths clear of third, while proving no match late against **Tiz the Law**, who established himself as an early Kentucky Derby favorite posting an impressive three-length win.

The Fountain of Youth drew more speed than the Holy Bull, and saddled with the far outside post following the defection of **Chance It**, Ete Indien was dismissed by bettors as the 3.30-1 third choice. He displayed a dynamic turn of early foot on Saturday, and speed can be a valuable tool in the Kentucky Derby, with **Orb** (2013) being the last confirmed late-running winner.

Other front-running types are aiming for this year's Derby, and they will face a serious challenge to establish early positioning. With century-topping Brisnet E1 Pace ratings in every dirt start, Ete Indien promises to be on the engine at Churchill Downs. His Brisnet numbers are strong across the board, registering a commendable 103 Speed rating in the Fountain of Youth, the third consecutive triple-digit number since switching surfaces.

Next comes a tantalizing rematch against Tiz the Law in the \$1 million Florida Derby (GI) on March 28.

Ete Indien's run style serves as a compliment to stablemate **Sole Volante**, who will bring his late kick to Saturday's Tampa Bay Derby (GII) for Biancone.

Dennis' Moment came up empty in his first start since early November, weakening to last as the 13-10 Fountain of Youth favorite, and the exciting 2-year-old performer has now failed to beat a horse in back-to-back starts. **Dale Romans** plans to regroup and point for the April 4 Blue Grass (GII) at Keeneland, where Dennis' Moment can still qualify for the first leg of the American Triple Crown, but the colt's frail psyche may be poorly suited for a 20-horse Derby field.

Candy Tycoon got up for second, edging **As Seen On Tv** by a neck. After performing marginally at one-turn distances and on turf, the **Todd Pletcher**-trained colt improved significantly when stretching out to two turns on Jan. 25, breaking his maiden going away by four lengths. Candy Tycoon took plenty of kickback while saving ground from his rail post in the Fountain of Youth, and the 23-1 outsider proceeded to lose ground while being carried extremely wide into the stretch. He showed determination out-finishing a trio of rivals, with second-through-fifth being separated by less than a length, while Candy Tycoon still has much to prove, I'm intrigued to see if he keeps moving forward in the final prep.

Fifth-placer **Country Grammer**, unraced since breaking his maiden at Aqueduct in mid-November, also ran well from off the pace to just miss second in his first stakes attempt. He's one to watch going forward for **Chad Brown**.

Other 3-year-olds

Maxfield recorded his third workout Sunday, a half-mile bullet move at Palm Meadows. The Breeders' Futurity (GI) winner still need points to qualify for the Kentucky Derby, and trainer **Brendan Walsh** indicated Maxfield won't be ready for the races before April. He may not make it back in time for the final round of Kentucky Derby preps, which would make the May 16 Preakness (GI) a likely target.

Mr. Monomoy, wire-to-wire winner of the Risen Star first division, has been sidelined. He is expected back later in the season, but the **Brad Cox**-trained colt will bypass the Triple Crown races.

Kentucky Derby Future Wager

Pool 3 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager opens Friday at noon (ET) and run through Sunday at 6 p.m. (ET).

Previews

The San Felipe (GII) and Tampa Bay Derby (GII) are eligible to impact the Kentucky Derby picture this weekend, and I will preview both fields below.

Saturday's Gotham (GIII) at Aqueduct will be contested over a one-turn mile, which makes it an attractive option for speedy 3-year-olds, and **Mischevious Alex** rates as a top contender in the 11-horse field following his seven-length triumph in the seven-furlong Swale (GIII) at Gulfstream Park.

Tampa Bay Derby:

#1 Texas Swing: One of three for Todd Pletcher, Curlin colt steps up after breaking his maiden at Tampa on the Davis undercard in his second start. Javier Castellano picks up mount.

#2 Spa City: He posted the fastest 3-year-old maiden race this year, receiving a 103 Brisnet Speed rating when taking a 1 1/8-mile event at Gulfstream on Feb. 8, and Kiaran McLaughlin trains the Godolphin homebred son of 2007 Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense. Daniel Centeno replaces an injured Jose Ortiz.

#3 Relentless Dancer: Louisiana-bred stakes winner weakened to be a well-beaten fourth when trying open stakes rivals in Holy Bull.

#4 Chance It: Mucho Macho Man S. winner was re-routed after receiving a wide draw in last week's Fountain of Youth (GII). Saffie Joseph trainee has registered strong Speed numbers in the last three starts (103-102-103), and versatile colt showed his tractability rating just off the early speed last time. Paco Lopez will be up.

#5 Market Analysis: Pletcher pupil exits a sharp debut score at Gulfstream, winning by nearly a length at seven furlongs, and was flattered when the runner-up came back to crush maiden foes. Gray son of Honor Code shows a half-mile bullet work in preparation, and serious contender will be forwardly placed with John Velazquez.

#6 Mo Mosa: Turfway maiden winner looks too slow based on Speed figures.

#7 Sole Volante: Impressed when making first two-turn dirt start in Sam F. Davis (GIII), rallying past odds-on favorite Independence Hall to post a 2 1/2-length triumph, and received a commendable 102 Brisnet Speed rating. Florent Geroux, who was up on stablemate Ete Indien in the Fountain of Youth, replaces an injured Luca Panici aboard the confirmed closer.

#8 Letmeno: Makes second start back this year for Ian Wilkes, but stakes-placed juvenile a non-factor in his last two outings.

#9 Unrighteous: Maiden adds blinkers for third start and jumps straight to stakes competition for Pletcher after finishing a clear second to Spa City.

#10 Bye Bye Melvin: Enters in good form for Graham Motion, recording back-to-back wins over maiden and entry-level allowance foes on Tampa's turf, but his lack of dirt form is a concern from an outside post.

#11 King Guillermo: Turf maiden scorer didn't fire in lone dirt start and returns from a 98-day hiatus in a difficult spot.

#12 Tons of Gold: Winless from eight starts, he appears overmatched.

San Felipe:

#1 Fort McHenry: Makes first start for Doug O'Neill, but gelding appears in too deep.

#2 Honor A. P.: Eye-catching maiden winner rates as a wildcard in return from a five-month layoff. An \$850,000 son of Honor Code, John Shirreffs trainee doesn't have to win the first race back; eligible to keep moving forward with respectable effort.

#3 Wrecking Crew: Thrice stakes-paced, including a third at 39-1 in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI), he exits a dull showing in the Los Alamitos Futurity (GII).

#4 Authentic: A brilliant 7 3/4-length winner of the Sham (GIII), Into Mischief colt brings serious speed to his third career start for five-time Kentucky Derby winner Bob Baffert.

#5 Thousand Words: \$1 million purchase by Pioneerof the Nile, two-time stakes victor has narrowly prevailed in all three starts, and long-striding colt looks like the type who will keep progressing for Baffert. His Brisnet Speed ratings need to increase, registering a 92 taking the Robert B. Lewis (GIII) last time, and we'll see if he has the acceleration to reel in speedy foes Saturday.

#6 Storm the Court: A 45-1 upset winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, bay colt is eligible to improve after recording an even fourth in his comebacker, the seven-furlong San Vicente (GII). Questions remain whether he is good enough to handle this assignment.

#7 Swagsational: He's won three straight for Heath Lawrence, but late runner netted only a 74 Speed rating capturing the Turf Paradise Derby last out.

Kentucky Derby top 10

1 Tiz the Law: Breezed half-mile Monday after brief absence from worktab; Florida Derby next

2 Thousand Words: San Felipe represents key test

3 Enforceable: Commendable runner-up effort in Risen Star first division

4 Ete Indien: Florida Derby next for spectacular Fountain of Youth winner

5 Sole Volante: Looks to make a late impact in Tampa Bay Derby

6 Nadal: Rebel next for exciting Baffert trainee

7 Silver Prospector: Southwest winner to meet new challengers in Rebel

8 Wells Bayou: Southwest runner-up headed to Rebel for Cox

9 Candy Tycoon: Fountain of Youth runner-up progressing for Pletcher

10 Basin: Hopeful winner to return in Rebel

Up next

I will recap three Kentucky Derby qualifiers, and preview the fields for the Rebel (GII) at Oaklawn Park and Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) at Turfway on March 14. — *James Scully/TwinSpires.com*

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE

LAKE AVENUE RETURNS IN BUSHER; HONEYBEE ATTRACTS NINE OAKS PROSPECTS — They dominated the major 2-year-old filly races at Aqueduct last fall, and on Saturday **Lake Avenue** and **Maedean** will renew acquaintance over the Queens track in the \$250,000 Busher Invitational.

The one-mile Busher, along with the \$300,000 Honeybee (GIII) at Oaklawn Park over 1 1/16 miles, are both Road to the Kentucky Oaks series preps that will award qualifying points of 50-20-10-5 to their respective top four finishers.

The **Godolphin** homebred Lake Avenue, who romped by more than 12 lengths against maiden foes in November, was

back four weeks later and led throughout again in the nine-furlong Demoiselle (GII), defeating Maedean by four lengths. The latter was similarly impressive in her prior start, taking the 1-mile Tempted S. by 5 ½ lengths.

"She's doing excellent," trainer **Mark Hennig** said of Maedean who, like Lake Avenue, is a daughter of Tapit. "The race is a good starting point. Ultimately, she wants more ground."

Another who might want more distance is Mo City, who ran out of it when missing by a neck in the seven-furlong Gasparilla S. at Tampa Bay Downs on Jan. 18.

Nine will line up in the Honeybee, with stakes newcomer **Alta's Award** likely to attract attention. The **Steve Asmussen** trainee comes in off back-to-back wins over the 1 1/16-mile trip at Fair Grounds, the latter a head score in a first-level allowance.

Motu, a close second to **Finite** in the Golden Rod (GII) two back, will look to rebound from a third-place finish in the Suncoast S. at Tampa Bay Downs, where she finished three parts of a length behind runner-up **Turtle Trax**.

Second in an Oaklawn allowance in her debut for **Brad Cox**, Grade II-placed **Shedaresthedevel** is eligible to improve in this spot, while **Ring Leader** stretches out after scoring by a half-length in the six-furlong Dixie Belle S. earlier in the meet.

Action on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks will continue Sunday for the \$100,000 Santa Ysabel Stakes (GIII). Entries are scheduled to be drawn on Thursday afternoon. — **Vance Hanson/Brisnet.com**

ROAD TO THE LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 20

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	Finite	Steve Asmussen	70
2.	Tonalist's Shape	Saffie Joseph Jr.	60
3.	British Idiom	Brad Cox	50
4.	Spice Is Nice	Todd Pletcher	20
5.	Donna Veloce	Simon Callaghan	12
6.	Wicked Whisper	Steve Asmussen	10
7.	Serein	Mikio Matsunaga	10
8.	Lake Avenue	Bill Mott	10
9.	Venetian Harbor	Richard Baltas	10
10.	Lucrezia	Arnaud Delacour	10
11.	Harvey's Lil Gail	Bill Mott	10
12.	Swiss Skydiver	Kenny McPeck	10
13.	Dream Marie	Matthew Williams	10
14.	Tempers Rising	Dallas Stewart	7
15.	Perfect Alibi	Mark Casse	6
16.	Motu	Kenny McPeck	6
17.	Comical	Steve Asmussen	5
18.	Gingham	Bob Baffert	5
19.	Reluctant Bride	Patrick Biancone	5
20.	Frank's Rockette	Bill Mott	4

FUTURE WAGER

Betting in the third of four 2020 Kentucky Derby Future Wager pools is scheduled to open at noon (all times Eastern) on Friday and will close on Sunday at 6 p.m. The lone Kentucky Oaks Future Wager of 2019 also opens at noon Friday and is set to close Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Also available from March 6-8 is the Oaks/Derby Future Double. The \$2 minimum bet requires fans to correctly select the winners of both the May 1 Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) and May 2 Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (GI).

KDFW FIELD

#	Horse	ML
1	Authentic	12-1
2	Basin	32-1
3	Chance It	30-1
4	Charlatan	12-1
5	Enforceable	30-1
6	Ete Indien	10-1
7	Gouverneur Morris	20-1
8	Honor A.P.	20-1
9	Independence Hall	20-1
10	Major Fed	50-1
11	Max Player	30-1
12	Maxfield	15-1
13	Modernist	20-1
14	Nadal	10-1
15	Royal Act	30-1
16	Silver Prospector	20-1
17	Sole Volante	12-1
18	Spa City	50-1
19	Storm the Court	30-1
20	Thousand Words	15-1
21	Three Technique	50-1
22	Tiz the Law	8-1
23	Wells Bayou	30-1
24	Mutuel Field	4-1

KOFW FIELD

#	Horse	ML
1	Alta's Award	50-1
2	Auberge	20-1
3	British Idiom	12-1
4	Donna Veloce	10-1
5	Edgeway	15-1
6	Finite	10-1
7	Frank's Rockette	12-1
8	Gingham	20-1
9	Harvey's Lil Gail	30-1
10	Ice Princess	30-1
11	Lake Avenue	15-1
12	Lucrezia	30-1
13	Maedean	30-1
14	Magic Dance	30-1
15	Mo City	30-1
16	Motu	30-1
17	O Seraphina	50-1
18	Spice is Nice	15-1
19	Swiss Skydiver	50-1
20	Tonalist's Shape	10-1
21	Turtle Trax	50-1
22	Venetian Harbor	8-1
23	Wicked Whisper	15-1
24	Mutuel Field	9-2

TAKING SHAPE

The possible fields for Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as owners and trainers vie for points on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve." Below are known horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race based on published news reports and other sources.

JEFF RUBY STEAKS (GIII)

Saturday, March 14, \$200,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M (Polytrack), Turfway Park, Florence, Ky., Top 4 Points: 20-8-4-2.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Possible Starters:			
Invader (0)	Wesley Ward	133.5	E/P 8
Finnick the Fierce (5)	Rey Hernandez	127.7	S 0
Something Natural (0)	Brad Cox	125.2	P 3

REBEL (GII)

Saturday, March 14, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Oaklawn Park, Hot Springs, Ark., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Nadal (0)	Bob Baffert	140.5	E 6
Wells Bayou (4)	Brad Cox	137.2	E 8
No Parole (0)	Tom Amoss	136.0	E 8
Silver Prospector (21)	Steve Asmussen	135.5	E/P 3
Basin (0)	Steve Asmussen	135.5	E/P 6
Three Technique (4)	Jeremiah Englehart	132.8	P 5
American Theorem (4)	George Papaprodromou	131.0	E/P 6
Known Possible Starters:			
Eight Rings (10)	Bob Baffert	146.6	E 8
Background (0)	Mike Puhich	122.6	P 2

TWINSPIRES.COM LOUISIANA DERBY (GII)

Saturday, March 21, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 3/16 M, Fair Grounds, New Orleans, La., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Possible Starters:			
Silver State (14)	Steve Asmussen	134.3	P 2
Disc Jockey (0)	Saffie Joseph Jr.	134.0	P 4
Enforceable (33)	Mark Casse	133.6	S 0
Ny Traffic (10)	Saffie Joseph Jr.	132.6	E 8
Portos (2)	Todd Pletcher	131.4	E/P 4
Mailman Money (5)	Bret Calhoun	131.0	P 6
Modernist (50)	Bill Mott	130.7	E/P 6
Ajaaweed (7)	Kieran McLaughlin	130.5	S 0
Farmington Road (5)	Todd Pletcher	128.2	P 3
Major Fed (20)	Greg Foley	128.1	P 4
Royal Act (4)	Peter Eurton	127.4	E/P 5
Lynn's Map (0)	Mark Casse	125.8	E/P 5
Mr. Big News (0)	Bret Calhoun	124.5	P 2
Chestertown (0)	Steve Asmussen	121.7	P 3
Fort Knox (0)	Keith Desormeaux	117.6	E/P 6
+Social Afflict (0)	Dallas Stewart	n/a	n/a
+Winning Impression (0)	Dallas Stewart	n/a	n/a
+Coach Bahe (0)	Phil Bauer	n/a	n/a

SUNLAND DERBY (GII)

Sunday, March 22, \$700,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Sunland Park, Hobbs, N.M., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Possible Starters:			
Azul Coast (14)	Bob Baffert	130.6	S 2
Sir Rick (0)	Robertino Diodoro	129.0	S 0

UAE DERBY (GII)

Saturday, March 28, \$2.5 million, 3yo, 1 3/16 M, Meydan Racecourse, Dubai, Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer		
Known Possible Starters:			
Full Flat (0)	Hideyuki Mori	n/a	n/a
Rowdy Yates (0)	Steve Asmussen	133.5	E/P 6
Azul Coast (14)	Bob Baffert	130.6	S 2
Ajaaweed (7)	TBA	130.5	S 0
Tizamagician (1)	Richard Mandella	127.7	E/P 7
Fore Left (0)	Doug O'Neill	125.2	E 7

FLORIDA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, March 28, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Gulfstream Park, Hallandale Beach, Fla., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Possible Starters:			
Ete Indien (54)	Patrick Biancone	142.7	E 8
Independence Hall (14)	Mike Trombetta	142.3	E/P 7
Tiz the Law (22)	Barclay Tagg	141.2	P 4
As Seen On Tv (10)	Kelly Breen	140.0	E/P 5
Gouverneur Morris (4)	Todd Pletcher	133.7	E/P 6
Candy Tycoon (20)	Todd Pletcher	131.4	E 5

WOOD MEMORIAL (GII)

Saturday, April 4, \$750,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Aqueduct, Ozone, N.Y., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Possible Starters:			
As Seen On Tv (10)	Kelly Breen	140.0	E/P 5
Max Player (10)	Linda Rice	132.4	P 3
Candy Tycoon (20)	Todd Pletcher	131.4	E 5

BLUE GRASS (GII)

Saturday, April 4, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Known Possible Starters:			
As Seen On Tv (10)	Kelly Breen	140.0	E/P 5
Dennis' Moment (10)	Dale Romans	138.6	E/P 3
Gouverneur Morris (4)	Todd Pletcher	133.7	E/P 6
Candy Tycoon (20)	Todd Pletcher	131.4	E 5
Maxfield (10)	Brendan Walsh	130.1	S 0

SANTA ANITA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 4, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Santa Anita, Arcadia, Calif., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Known Possible Starters:			
Anneau d'Or (12)	Blaine Wright	140.5	P 5

ARKANSAS DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 11, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Oaklawn Park, Hot Springs, Ark., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

LEXINGTON (GIII)

Saturday, April 11, \$200,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 20-8-4-2.

-END-